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The Legacy Of Feminine Vibes In Folk Culture

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Abstract

Culture has been an indomitable part of our society since time immemorial. Its legacy has glorified historical trajectory and it is undoubtedly unique. They are the unique identity of their defined territory and symbol of their glorious past.

Women have immensely contributed in cultural transmission, social integration and establishing connections between two different generations. They have played a key role in the deepest foundations of our traditions and ethical culture.

Their incredible influences can be traced from interpretations of folk cultural spheres. They are tangible as well as intangible, basically framed under regional languages, tones and textures. The intangible cultural spheres mainly include the folk songs , folk dances, folk lores, folk tales etc.

They are almost hidden from mainstream historiography but they played an unprecedented role in political, social and economic aura through their cultural strata. Their history can be traced through many aspects.

The perspective to look down the stairs of history through women's perspective in folk terms needs to be advocated. Its reinterpretation , reconstruction and renovation should be marked, as they are an untouched and unexplored portion of history.

Keywords - Cultural, Transmission, Women, Folk, Consciousness, Interpretations

Introduction

Folk melodies are the deepest foundations of our culture. Its influences can be traced from ethnohistorical perspective. They are an intangible legacy of our past , basically framed under regional languages which is a rich and valid heritage of artistic culture. It has been preserved well through ages and practiced either as a ritual, entertainment or performing arts.

The melodies pass through many stages to achieve the destination to be an indomitable part of civilization. It has to be achieved through many levels and their clear impression can be traced through folk culture. It is a local style of construction,creation, adaptation and evidence of internal unity through sensitivity, insight, richness, self expression, recreation, refreshment, joy and consciousness.

Folk melodies have contributed to the creation of awareness, consciousness and unity. It is a safe form of diverse culture. Folk music appears to be woven into the history of culture.It is an essence of rural agricultural society and its aspects can be traced from many spheres-

Cultural-

The cultural legacy glorifies the historical trajectory throughout human civilization. It is an indomitable part of society, undoubtedly unique and an admixture of culture from past and present. Folk culture is the signature remark of a particular area and undoubtedly distinctive. They are the unique identity of their defined territory and symbol of their glorious past. They immensely contributed in cultivating pride, joy, refreshment and celebrations among the common mass.

Women are the custodian of culture. They used to play a very remarkable role in preservation and conservation of their culture inside their cultural zone through ethical code of conduct as a lineage of family. Women provide a stage of constant flow of folk traditions from one generation to the next inside their cultural sphere. Most of the melodies of folk songs are sweetened through feminine larynx "pure Magahi songs are found in the tongues of the women-folk in the tikari-jamhore region of Gaya Aurangabad districts"[1]

Most of the folk songs portrayed women as a character and asking the supernatural entity to bless her and her family. The influence of divine characters portrayed the concept of idealism around these forms of folk songs. On one side women are the presenter as well as charioteer of folk songs and on the other women's characters and their emotions and aura are well reflected through the words of folk melodies.
In many times even the male characters used to characterize women's attire and performed the folk traditions. One of the dance forms Jitiya is performed on the occasion of jivitputrika festival. In this form of folk dance male members of society tried to characterize the female member's attire and performed the dance with a group.[2]

Social -

Women are the foundation stone of a society and the pillar of folk songs as well as melodies. Folk songs include social sentiments, public awareness, and affection. Folk songs revolve around emotions. The emotional urge of affection, problems in the way of affection, social ethics, the victory of true relation is characterized throughout the melody of folk songs. It sincerely characterizes unconditional caring towards individuals and to their

respective society. It is fond of fortunate idealistic stories which may have remarkable and idealistic impact on society.

The folk stories prominently announce the glories of women. If not then they are the story of a couple underlining the female counterparts in the bright area. Although most of the folk songs echo around us from the female vocal cord. So, it is she, the woman, who is voluntarily working for the continuation of the legacy of folk traditions and solidarity of folk culture.

In the era of the blend of mythology and modernity the status of women is most important parameter of social change. It reflects all the scenarios of past, present and future through the songs "Geeton ke madhyam se magahi lok jivan par accha khasa prakash padta hai. Lok jivan ki bahut sari bate ham geeton ke madhyam se Prakat karte hain"[3] The social differentiation, customs and social evils are characterized through the journey of folk songs. It almost revolves around the soft feelings of local or folk aura towards their whole sphere.

Political -

Women have contributed in the political spheres through their folk melodies to the fullest. From the courtyard to the corridors of politics women have the remarkable role in spreading the messages of awareness, consciousness and unity towards the evil in the society through their folk melodies.

The spirit of folk singing still speaks in various songs from the throats of rural women throughout the length and breath of the territory. Plenty of proverbs have been used in folk songs to spread immense spirit and attention towards the political scenario on a large scale.

From the ethnohistorical perspective, women are the epicenter of political discourse as well as discussions in the present scenario and for the past centuries women had played a very important role in successful conduction of political movements and in the freedom movement. Women had played a crucial role in decentralization of ideas through their folk melodies and helped in political change at grassroot level which had a remarkable impact on the political scenario of India and Indian National Movement.

Entertainment -

From the responsibility and chaos of household activities performed by the female members of society, they get the leissure, relaxation and refreshment zones under the vibrations of folk melodies. They perform all these actions with a group of people and narrate the stories of local mysticism. It is a melodious song whose essence can be traced in many other folk songs. They are framed mostly for the purpose of joy and entertainment. "Sangit ke mukhyatah madhurya paksha ki avtarna me Gaya ki sanskriti siddhahast rahi hai"[4]

It is a form of traditional local culture which is combined with song and dance forms. All the folk dances are performed on the precious occasion of Lok Utsav. It is a space of knowledge, joy, happiness and prosperity. It is a unique smell of soil whose essence is traced from many prospects of culture. "lok geet aadi manav ka ullasmay sangeet hai"[5]

One of the folk forms of jhoomar has been practiced with the jhumaar geet. It is a way of singing and dancing along a group. It spread immense happiness and a sense of joy and collectivism all around."Magahi lok geeton

me jhoomar ka sthan bada vyapak hai yah prayah sabhi anusthanon ke awsar par gaya jata hai"[6] In the Domkach a kind of storytelling form of dance, female members of the groom's family enjoy their son's marriage away from the true marriage place in the form of Domkach.In Sohar Khilaona Dance which is also known as Jivan Dhara, arrived of new born baby in the family is celebrated. . It is often performed by female members of society.[6]

Economic -

The laborious activities of agriculture and tough rural spiritual rites are complemented with melodious echoes of folk songs which creates a sense of enthusiasm and lowers the work pressure and increases the joyful spheres of feminine melodies. These melodies are connected with labor and the labor is celebrated with work. These folk forms prominently includes Karma Nritya, Ropni, Jatsaar, Shram Geet "Kriya geeton me prayah jo taan li jati haai wah sambandhit kriya ke anuroop hoti hai"[7]

Apart from personal belongings and community happiness, the folk melodies are also associated with economic assistance. Kheldian are a group of female dancers who are professional in nature and perform dance and song on the occasion of marriage and various ceremonies."Gaya jile me kai gaao the jinme kheldian naam ki nachne gane wali peshewar auraten raha karti thi"[8] Hence the folk melodies also contributed in well being and economic subsistence of female members of society.

Religious-

Feminine population of the society are voluntarily responsible for religious as well as ethical norms of family and culture. They are a routine form of songs which is performed at religious ceremonies mostly by the female members of society in a very slow rhythm and melodious tone of sound. It is a way of meditations and a prayer to offer to the Supreme being.

Panwariya Nach, Sanjha Parati, Netua Dayal are the folk forms of melodies mostly surrounded by supernatural blessings. It is an urge with which an individual tries to get connected with supreme beings with supernatural activities. These songs are mostly conjunctions of song, dance and a taboo with folk stories or tales.

The festivals, fast and attire characterizes the historical characters on one hand and on the other it draws attention towards social and religious elements. It is a way to celebrate the joyful completion."Gaya jila me pavai ne sangit ke kshetra me khas sthan banaya hai jo aaj tak kamobesh rup me vah parampara chali aa rahi hai"[9]

Environmental concerns-

Folk stories are celebrated in many forms and presented in local languages. It is basically a Kathaanak of the common people where song and dance are both being performed. As women are voluntarily responding to many spheres of life. So, environmental consciousness is a key holder for economic, social and cultural prosperity. So, feminine melodies also echoes about the environmental degradation and solutions for the conservation and upliftment of the same. These may mainly include Chaumasa, Baguli, Chauhaat etc.

Response towards immediate concerns -

As women takes wide aura of society so, she is the principal correspondent to respond against social reforms, a light on social evils, social characters. It takes an indomitable role in social awareness and spreading the messages at grassroot level and contributions in oral literature and the flow of family culture and oral folk ethical norms from one generation to the next in the form of story "Lok Gatha- Sadharan janta ka mahakavya"[10]

Basically these plays were to propagate awareness and positivity in rural society and to eradicate the evils of society and remove the sufferings of humanity. It is a way of life, art and being a greater human.

These art forms are the natural expressions of the heart of sentimental and sensitive people. In the stories we get a detailed glimpse of the ideals and imagination of the society, country, culture and life. Folk melodies are a storehouse of our philosophy and artistic legacy.

Conclusion

The melodies echoes, in the environment from the time when humans didn't know the art of writing. The history of culture is more antique than the history of languages because art prevails prior to that of languages. Simple naturalistic local words being used to convey the messages. It is a true philosophy of life with more lyrical words in a systematic manner. It includes traditional ethics, beliefs, faiths and more heritage.

This medium of self expression is not individualistic, rather a sense of collectiveness prevails in the lores of folk culture. It preserves the original inspiration in the same form by incorporating folk life and teachings. From the present to past and future, these divine melodies are preserved through the larynx of feminine counterparts of the society. Their contributions to folk culture and in its preservation is truly unprecedented and remarkable. It became a site of communications, connectedness, integration , decentralization of ideas. Folk forms may undergo changes through generations but culture and folk philosophy will remain afresh which is divinely transferred and transmitted from one generation to the next through feminine hands.

Folk melodies are a perfect blend of morality, modernity and ethnicity. Folk culture is fast changing under the impact of modern scientific influences. The concept of rural life undergoes changes with urbanization, advancement technologies, migrations, industrialisations. The development of new ideas, communications and advanced technology led its changeful impact in their own way to the remotest corner of the society and led to transformational influences on folk ways. Here, women have played a very remarkable role in maintaining the perfect blend of balance between traditionality and modernity and established a constant flow of legacy from one generation to the next.

The perspective to review the history and rediscovery of our own culture from folk feminine vision must be advocated. It's a story of admixture of culture from past and present. This marks the reawakening of pride of our culture from feminine vibes. Its reinterpretation, reconstruction and renovation should be marked as they are an indomitable sphere of our society.

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